

T H E

R U R A L D I S T R I C T O F E L Y

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

for the year


1 9 4 5

by

K. S. M A U R I C E - S M I T H

M. R. C. S., L. R. C. P.

Medical Officer of Health



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR 1945

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

1945 has seen the cessation of hostilities in both Europe and the Far East. The general decrease in the tension and sense of anxiety among the civil population soon became apparent. The increasing urgency of a number of public health problems soon became obvious, the outstanding and most urgent problem being, of course, housing.

1. STATISTICS:

For this year, I have kept the usual statistics and the figures are available, but in accordance with war-time custom are not included in this report.

2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES:

- (a) Ambulances. (i) Infectious Cases - Motor Ambulance owned by the Joint Isolation Hospital Committee.
- (ii) Non-infectious Cases.
- A. Motor Ambulance for Ely Urban and Rural cases stationed at the Council's Depot in Barton Road.
- B. Motor Ambulance at Littleport. This is the property of the Joint War Organisation of the Red Cross & St. John, and is run by the Littleport Divisions of The St. John Ambulance Brigade. It is available for civil cases of illness or injury.

Excellent work has been done throughout the year by these vehicles.

- (b) Nursing and Clinic Arrangements - These are materially the same as in previous years, and very little comment is necessary here.
- (c) Isolation Hospital - Staffing difficulties have continued but an efficient service has been maintained throughout the year.

3. WATER:

- (a) The supply for the District is drawn from 2 chalk wells at West Row. The efforts of the Water Engineer and his Staff have maintained supplies throughout the year.
- (b)
 - (i) The Chloramine Plant has been in use continually and has proved satisfactory. The chloramine process permits of the treatment of the water at the source.
 - (ii) Periodic chemical and bacteriological analyses were made during the year and proved satisfactory.
 - (iii) No contamination was discovered during the year.
 - (iv) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
 - (v) Over 95% of the dwelling houses are supplied with water direct from public water mains.

A small percentage of dwelling houses are supplied by stand-pipe.

It is estimated that the percentage of the population supplied approximates to the figures given above for houses.

4. SEWAGE:

No sewage extensions were carried out during the year. The Council has been considering the formulation of schemes under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

5. HOUSING:

- (a) As in previous years I have watched the housing situation carefully with the very able assistance of the Sanitary Inspector, and we have co-operated closely throughout the year. Necessary action has been taken to abate statutory nuisances.
- (b) With the cessation of hostilities in both the European and the Pacific theatres of war, and during the latter months of the year, the start of demobilisation of those serving in H.M. Armed Forces, the question of Housing became of increasing importance and urgency.
- (c) Negotiations in regard to a number of housing sites were started and some carried through. Contracts for 60 houses were placed, and a considerable number of these were under construction by the end of the year at Littleport, Sutton, Wilburton and Haddenham.

6. SCHOOLS:

I do not wish to make any comments this year.

7. MILK SUPPLY:

- (a) Cowsheds: No further comments are necessary to my comments in previous years. The Sanitary Inspector and I make every effort to maintain as satisfactory a condition as possible, but neither of us are satisfied with the state of affairs which exist.
- (b) Milk Examinations: These are carried out as and when thought fit; and the results vary from very good to bad.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

- (a) 139 notifications of infectious diseases were received. These included 36 cases of whooping cough and 48 cases of measles, and occurring for the most part in the earlier months of the year. Both diseases showed the greater incidence in the 0 - 5 and 5 - 10 age groups. Neither disease was of a very severe character and complications were few.
- (b) Disinfection of premises, etc., is regularly carried out in cases of notifiable disease; also, when infection is reported, or requests are received for any special reasons. Clothing and bedding are disinfected at the Joint Isolation Hospital.
- (c) The arrangements for the treatment of scabies cases, which were made with Wisbech in 1944 are still maintained. The incidence is at a very low level in the area.
- (d) Tuberculosis: 7 new cases were notified during the year. After making necessary adjustments, there are now the following numbers on the Register :

	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
Male	17	13
Female	15	8

Compared with 1944, the increase in the total number of cases on the Register is 1 - Female Non-Respiratory.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

K. S. MAURICE SMITH

Medical Officer of Health
Ely Rural District Council.

